

GOVERNMENT OF TALANGANA
ABSTRACT

Forest Conservation Act – Proposal for diversion of 776.20 hectares of forest land in Lankapalli Reserve Forest of Khammam Division in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for their JVR OC-II Mine coal mining project – Final (stage-II) approval – Accorded.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT
G.O.Ms.No. 24

Dated: 06-07-2017
Read the following:-

1. From PCCF, A.P, Hyd., Lr.Rc.No.39132/2008-F1,
Dated:04.01.2014.
2. Govt. Letter No.338/FOR.I (1)/2014, EFS&T (For.I) Dept.
Dt.20.05.2014.
3. From Govt. of India, MoEF, New Delhi Lr.No. F.No.8-56/2014-FC
Dt.10.12.2014 & 12.06.2016.
4. From PCCF, T.S., Hyd., Lr.Rc.No.39132/2008/FCA-1/PS,
Dated:09.03.2017.
5. Govt. Letter No.338/FOR.I (1)/2014, EFS&T (For.I) Dept.,
Dated:04.04.2017.
6. From Govt. of India, MoEF, New Delhi, Lr.No. F.No.8-56/2014-FC
dt. 31.05.2017.

ORDER

In his letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), A.P., Hyderabad has furnished a proposal for diversion of 776.2 Ha. of forest land in Lankapalli RF of Khammam Division for Coal Mining Project - JVR OC-II Mine, in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

2. In their letter 3rd read above, the Ministry of Environment & Forests GoI have granted in-principle (Stage-I) approval for the proposal forwarded vide letter 2nd read above, subject to fulfillment of the conditions stipulated thereof.

3. In the letter 5th read above, Government of Telangana have sent the report of compliance on the conditions stipulated by GoI, as submitted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Telangana State, Hyderabad in his letter 4th read above, to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi for according necessary approval.

4. In their letter 6th read above, the Central Government have granted final approval for the proposal in para 1 above, under Section 2 of the Forest (C) Act, 1980, subject to fulfillment of the conditions stipulated therein.

5. Accordingly, Government hereby accord **final (Stage-II)** approval for diversion of 776.20 hectares of forest land in Lankapalli Reserve Forest of Khammam Division in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for their JVR OC-II Mine coal mining project under section-2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. Compensatory Afforestation over the degraded forest land, twice in extent to the area of forest land proposed to be diverted, shall be raised within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency;

(PTO)

- iii. The State Govt. and User Agency shall ensure that the diversion of 210.54 ha. would only be used for O.B dump and reclamation and handing over the 210.54 ha. for O.B Dump will be done within 10 year from the date of handing over land after dumping is completed;
- iv. Following activities shall be ensured by the State Forest Department as per approved plan at the cost of user agency:
 - (a) Appropriate mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of streams;
 - (b) Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion;
 - (c) Construction of check dams, retention/toe walls along the contour to arrest sliding down of the excavated material;
 - (d) Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching so as to ensure that, that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28o; and
 - (e) Strict adherence to the prescribed top soil management.
- v. The user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the ad-hoc CAMPA under intimation to this Ministry;
- vi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, before work for the project is initiated;
- vii. The State Govt. shall implement approved Wildlife Conservation Plan from the funds provided by the user agency;
- viii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
- ix. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area [7.5 meters strip shall be kept within the mining lease boundary and area of the safety zone shall be part of the total area of mining lease as per the Ministry's guidelines dated 27.05.2015] shall be done within three years at the project cost as per approved scheme. Besides this afforestation on degraded forest land to be selected elsewhere measuring one & a half times the area under safety zone shall also be done at the project cost;
- x. The State Govt. shall ensure that in case of the mining lease adjoining the habitation, stretch of the boundary of the safety zone of the lease adjacent to the habitation/roads should be properly fenced by the user agency at the project cost to protect the vegetation/regeneration activities in the safety zone;
- xi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall undertake afforestation, as per approved plan, on degraded forest land, one and half time in extent to the area used for safety zone;

(Contd...)

- xii. The period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulating) Act, 1957, as amended or Rules framed there under;
- xiii. The User Agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.4), if any, located in the area within 100 m. from outer perimeter of the mining lease;
- xiv. The State Govt. and the User agency shall ensure de-silting of the village tanks and other water bodies located within five km from the mine lease boundary so as to mitigate the impact of siltation of such tanks/ water bodies whenever required, preferably within five years;
- xv. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Telangana and the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office (Southern Eastern Zone), Chennai. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
- xvi. The State Govt. and the User Agency shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xvii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;
- xviii. The boundary of the mining lease and safety zone shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- xix. The State Govt. ensure that the suitable bridges/ quality roads shall be constructed at all low lying spots being frequently damaged due to movement of lorries with heavy loads of coal at the cost of the user agency.
- xx. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- xxi. Any other condition that the Regional Office (Southern Zone), Chennai of this Ministry and the State Govt. of Telangana may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxii. All other conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval for which the user agency has submitted undertakings shall be complied with;

(Contd...)

- xxiii. The User Agency shall submit annual report on compliance to conditions stipulated in this clearance and also to the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval for which the user agency submitted undertakings, to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xxiv. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines and Hon'ble Court's order(s) pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Telangana State, Hyderabad shall take necessary action, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA)

DR. RAJAT KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),
Telangana State, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

M/s. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and User Agency.

The Director, Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi 110 003.

SC.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER